

## ABSTRACT

There is provided an assay for assessing the risk for developing substance dependency, including alcohol, opiate, cocaine, marijuana having a screening device for screening samples for the OPRM1 +118A allele polymorphism, the presence of the allele indicating a risk of developing substance dependency. A method for diagnosing the risk for developing substance dependency by screening samples for the OPRM1 +118A allele, whereby the presence of the allele indicates substance dependence is also provided. Also provided is a marker for determining the risk of developing substance dependency having an allele indicating the risk for developing substance dependency.

[illegible]